Supply of power by NTPC from Barh plant

832. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) with Maharashtra and Goa for supplying electricity from its Barh plant in Bihar;

(b) whether PPA was signed by representatives of NTPC, Government of Goa and the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. in Mumbai;

(c) whether this is the first PPA signed by the company for supply of power from the second phase of its Barh Plant, which is scheduled to be completed by 2012; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful for the Maharashtra Government to meet the power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For Barh Stage-I project (1980 MW), NTPC Ltd. has signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Ltd. (MSEDCL) on 09.03.2006. For Barh-II project (1320 MW), NTPC Ltd. has signed PPAs with Government of Goa and MSEDCL on 12.07.2007.

(c) No, Sir. PPAs for Barh Stage II project have already been signed with Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) and Madhya Pradesh Power Trading Company (MPTRADECO) on 18.05.2007 and 22.06.2007, respectively.

(d) Allocation of power from Barh I & II is to be made at the time of synchronization according to the prevailing Central formula/guidelines which will help to meet the power shortage in the State.

Electrification of villages in Rajasthan

833. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan and how many of them have been electrified under RGGVY, till date;

(b) the average annual performance, during the last three years;

(c) whether the target of 100 per cent electrification by 2009 could be achieved at this pace; and

(d) for how many hours uninterrupted power supply is assured per day to a remote village in vast stretching desert of the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per 2001 census, there are 39,753 inhabited villages in Rajasthan. Rural Electrification works have been carried out in 1,327 unelectrified villages and in 570 electrified villages for intensive electrification in Rajasthan under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) uptill 10.08.2007.

(b) Under RGGVY in Rajasthan, during 2005-06, Rural Electrification works were carried out in 230 unelectrified villages. During 2006-07, Rural Electrification works were carried out in 765 unelectrified villages and in 570 electrified villages for intensive electrification. During 2007-08, uptill 10.08.2007, Rural Electrification works have been carried out in 332 un-electrified villages.

(c) RGGVY envisages electrification of all the un-electrified villages in the country, including Rajasthan by 2009.

(d) As reported by Government of Rajasthan, 6 hours 3 phase supply for agriculture and 6 hours single phase supply for domestic use is given every day. As informed by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), it is expected that in the desert areas of Rajasthan, the solar photovoltaic home-lighting systems provided under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of MNRE would typically provide illumination for 4-5 hours every day.

Study on hydro power dams

834. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are studying the points raised by some countries on the hydro power dams;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of each dam?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan, India is required to furnish information in respect of new run-of-river projects (including Small Plants) and Storage Projects on Western Rivers *i.e.* (Jhelum, Chenab & Indus and their tributaries). As informed by the Ministry of Water Resources, information in respect of 28 projects has so far been sent to Pakistan which had raised objections on each of them but has been pursuing them vigorously only in respect of a few projects namely Kishanganga, Uri-II (both under construction) and the Baglihar Hydro Electric (HE) Project mentioned below. India has been examining the objections and endeavoring to resolve them through correspondence and meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission within the purview of the Treaty and Secretary Level Talks, as decided between the two Governments.

The Ministry of Water Resources have also informed that Pakistan had points of difference related to India's design of Baglihar HE Project over the river Chenab in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) with regard to freeboard, provision of pondage, provision of gates & low level spillways and the level of intakes. Government of Pakistan had referred these points of differences to the World Bank in January 2005 for examination by a Neutral Expert. The Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank has since given his Expert Determination on 12.2.2007 which is final and binding on both the countries. The project is currently under construction.